

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI



## 9TH DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11      DECEMBER 2013



### IN THE NEWS AND IN THE DISTRICT...

Dear 9th District Neighbors,

Council is officially on winter break until January but I wanted to wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

It was certainly a productive and positive year for the Council. The Council adopted a balanced budget this past year and ended ongoing fire station "brownouts." Lexington's fire stations are now once again open 24/7. In a giant step forward for public safety, staffing has been increased significantly at the Divisions of Fire, Police, and Community Corrections this past year bringing us much closer to appropriate staffing. Additional recruit classes are planned in the new year.

Utilizing the available budget fund balance, the Council also approved funding this fall for various much-needed infrastructure improvements. The Council's focus on the budget and fund balance went a long way towards addressing long-ignored issues that definitely needed attention.

In addition, the Police and Fire Pension Plan issue was resolved this year. The reform cut the City's long-range debt nearly in half—from approximately \$300 million to \$161 million. The Council also set aside money from the budget surplus to pay for additional street lights and also placed more money in the City's "Rainy Day Fund" this year. Lexington is now on much more solid ground financially as we welcome 2014.

In August, the Council approved building a new, larger, better Senior Citizen Center at Idle Hour Park—which could be open as soon as 2015.

Here in the 9th district, through bond allocation money, more than \$800,000 was utilized for much-needed street resurfacing. It by no means covered all of the streets in the district that needed attention, but I will continue to focus on those needs in 2014.



*Santa (AKA Jack Pattie from WVLK) was welcomed warmly by parade onlookers at Lexington's annual downtown Christmas parade earlier this month.*

More good news, Lexington was recently ranked 44th on The Milken Institute's annual "Best-Performing Cities" Index. The rankings are based on how well cities are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. It is definitely an honor for Lexington to be ranked as a Top 50 best-performing city. But we certainly can't afford to rest on our laurels.

In order to continue to build on our recent momentum, the Council recently reserved \$1 million for a new economic development jobs fund program proposed by the mayor's office to help attract and grow more quality jobs. The program will offer local grant and loan incentives to qualified industry businesses. The Council will be the ultimate decision-makers in the program's rigorous approval process.

I am proud of what has been accomplished but there's more work to be done in the new year.

As always, please forward this newsletter to anyone who may have an interest in receiving it. Thank you. Happy Holidays!

### CALENDAR:

*Council winter recess through January 13, 2014.*

View the [City Calendar](#)

To have your upcoming event noted in a future newsletter, e-mail [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)



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Best wishes to the Division of Community Corrections' Graduation Class 1402, sworn in earlier this month at the Fayette County Detention Center. Thank you for your service to our community.

The Division of Community Corrections is presently recruiting for the position of Community Corrections Officer. The filing deadline is January 10, 2014. To view more information about this position or to view other current job openings, click here: <https://jobs.lexingtonky.gov>.



Two public hearings were held earlier this month regarding the cable television franchise of Time-Warner Cable. The purpose was to identify future cable-related community needs and to review the performance of Time-Warner Cable under the current franchise. If you have a cable-related complaint that has not been resolved by dealing directly with Time-Warner or wish to comment on the performance of Time Warner Cable, please call LexCall (3-1-1) or send an e-mail to [commentoncablelexington@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:commentoncablelexington@lexingtonky.gov).

As with other franchises, the matter will eventually go to Council for approval once it is drafted and presented by the administration before it can be advertised for bid. Bidders who are then deemed responsive to the proposed ordinance will then also be presented to the Council for approval along with the final franchise agreement. Stay tuned for future updates.



*Taping a holiday greetings message for GTV3 with my fellow Council members before a Council meeting held earlier this month.*

Did you know that you can keep up with activities at City Hall by watching GTV3? GTV programming is available on Time-Warner cable channel 3 in Lexington and is also available online at [www.lexingtonky.gov](http://www.lexingtonky.gov).

GTV3 produces more than 700 hours of live meeting coverage and 600 hours of original programming annually. All Council committees, Work Sessions and Council



meetings are also replayed during the same week they occur. Other meetings covered on a "live only" basis on GTV3 include Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, public hearings, and other meetings and forums.



## LEXINGTON POLICE RECEIVES REACCREDITATION

For the seventh consecutive time, Lexington's Division of Police has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).

Lexington Police Chief Ronnie Bastin and Assistant Police Chief Robert Stack accepted the accreditation during an award ceremony recently in North Carolina.

Officially granted on November 16, 2013, the reaccreditation came after a stringent audit and review of Division of Police policies and operations in October 2013 by a team of external assessors. This accreditation is for three years.

According to CALEA officials the accreditation is a sign to Lexington residents that they have a world-class police agency.

A letter to Chief Ronnie Bastin said of the accreditation, it represents "your agency's ongoing acceptance of the obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence...we commend you and the Lexington Division of Police for demonstrating commitment to professional standards in policy and practice."

Lexington's Division of Police is now hiring. For more information, click here: <http://www.LexingtonKy.gov>.



Source: LFUCG Public Information Office

## LEXINGTON'S SNOW AND ICE PLAN

In the event of a serious snow and ice storm this winter, here is useful information to review on **Lexington's Snow and Ice Plan**:

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=537>

It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with this information before an actual snow or ice emergency occurs.

In the event of a snow or ice emergency, the city will use reverse 9-1-1 information as part of the notification process notify citizens who are registered with **Smart 9-1-1**. Register now at

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/smart911>

Updates will also be available online at [www.lexingtonky.gov](http://www.lexingtonky.gov) and at GTV3, Cable Channel 3 in Lexington, if severe weather occurs.

To report a power outage, visit the K-U website here: <http://www.lge-ku.com/rsc/ku/outages.asp> or call (800) 981-0600 - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Do you have an Emergency Kit at the ready in case you and/or your family need it? See page 6 for information on how to create such a kit. (And don't forget your pet(s) may need their own kit.)



## COOKING FIRE SAFETY TIPS FROM FIRE DEPT.

The holiday is here and we know that this is the time of year that most people gather to celebrate. A large part of these celebrations is the delicious meals that adorn the tables of family and friends. Cooking fires continue to be the leading cause of residential structure fires.

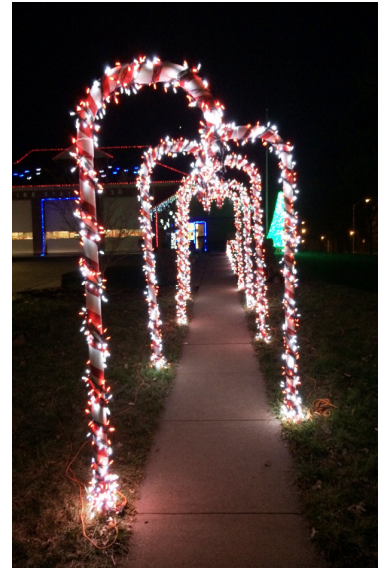
The Lexington Fire Department offers these tips to help you have a safe and happy holiday:

- Never put water on a grease fire. Water can cause the grease to splatter, burning you or spreading the fire. Instead, smother the flames. Do this by carefully sliding a lid over the pan or by throwing salt or baking soda on the flame. Then turn off the burner. If a fire occurs within

the oven, keep the door closed and turn the oven off.

- Keep a fire extinguisher near the kitchen, approximately 10 ft. away from the stove.
- Use cooking appliances for cooking only, not to heat the home.
- Avoid wearing loose sleeves while cooking, they can be ignited easily.
- In the event of any fire, no matter how "small," call 9-1-1 immediately.





*Don't miss Fire Station 20's annual light show featuring more than 20,000 animated lights and holiday music. To hear the music, tune your car radio to 91.1 FM. The lightshow runs from 6 pm-11 pm daily until Christmas. Station 20 is located on the corner of Arrowhead Drive and Harrodsburg Road.*

## 9TH DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS MEETING

Special thanks to each of the Neighborhood and Homeowners Associations' Presidents who recently attended the 9th District Community Leaders meeting at Copperfield Clubhouse.

Representatives from Copperfield, Higbee Mill, Robinwood, Stonewall, Wellington, Willow Oaks, and Wyndham Meadows neighborhoods attended the meeting.

Thank you to each of you for all that you do in providing invaluable leadership to your respective association to make the 9th district such a great place to live, work, and play!

A terrific exchange of knowledge and information occurred at the meeting.

The next neighborhood leaders meeting will occur early next spring.



*Neighborhood leaders from across the 9th District recently met to discuss issues including crime prevention, city services, speeding, synergy and other topics.*

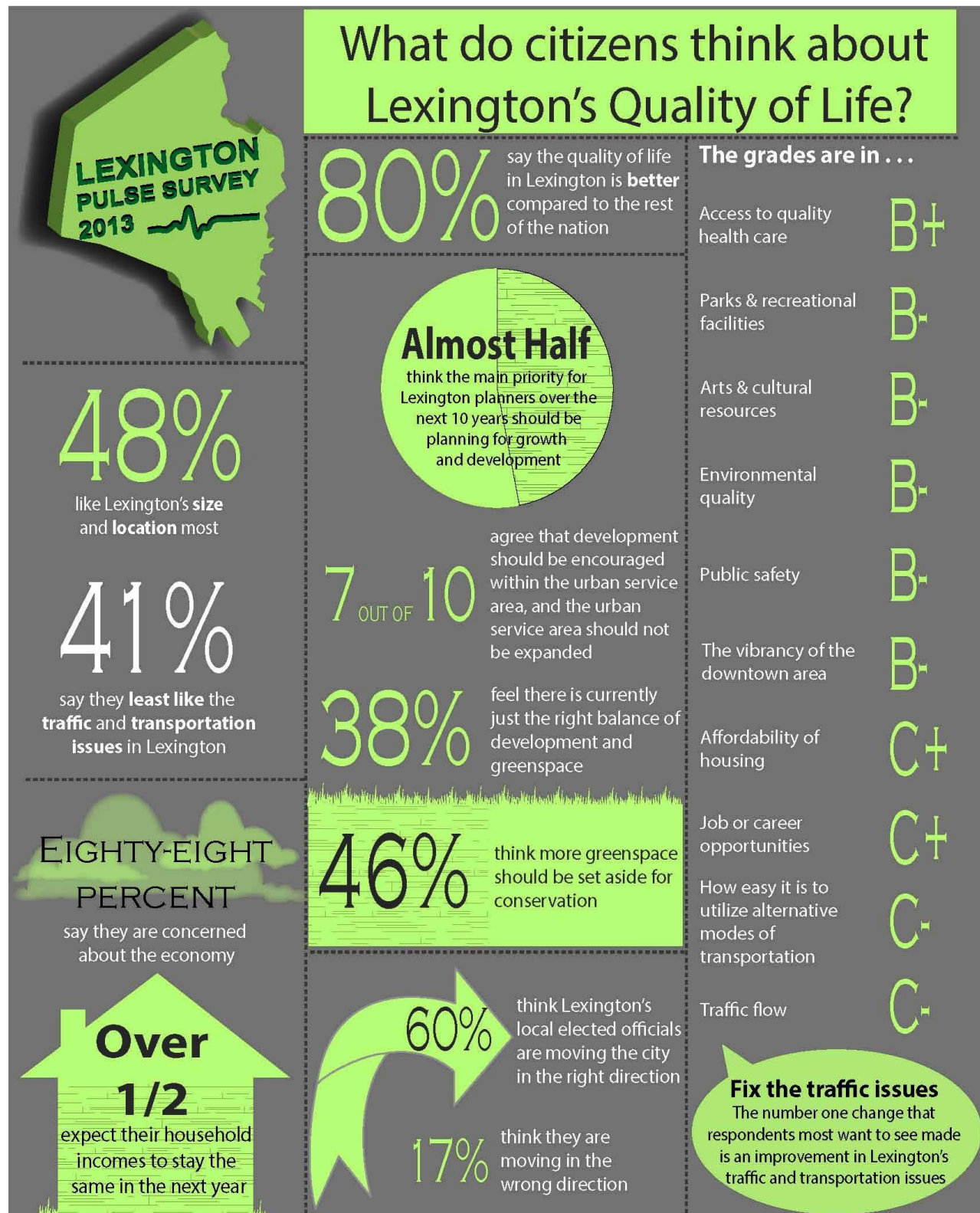


### Drive Slower. Don't Get Pulled Over.

My office is continuing to work with Lexington Police to implement targeted enforcement for aggressive driving behavior in the district. The speed limit in most neighborhoods is 25 m.p.h. Speeding in neighborhoods is one of the top complaints I receive. The NHTSA notes that speeding deaths nationwide account for nearly a third of all traffic fatalities each year, taking nearly 10,000 lives. In Fayette County, fines for speeding range from \$20-\$100 and most of the related offenses result in points assessed against your license. Court costs are an additional \$143.







Lexington-based market research firm, *The Matrix Group*, recently conducted a quality of life survey of Lexington residents, *Lexington Pulse Survey 2013*. A recap of the survey's results are illustrated above.

Source: The Matrix Group



FROM THE OFFICE OF  
COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER MOSSOTTI

Government Center  
200 East Main St., 5th Floor  
Lexington, KY 40507

Contact Councilmember Jennifer Mossotti:  
Phone: 859-258-3215

E-mail: [jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:jmossotti@lexingtonky.gov)

Legislative Aide:  
Rob Bolson

Phone: 859-425-2564

E-mail: [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov)

Be sure to "Like" on Facebook:

[CouncilmemberJenniferMossotti](#)



Follow on Twitter: [@Mossotti9th](#)



Create Your Safety Profile

[www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)

## OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE...

- Work continues at the Blue Grass Army Depot on the facility that will neutralize the stockpile of chemical agents now stored there. Construction of the plant is more than 70% complete. Lexington is part of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). Learn more, visit: <https://www.peoacwa.army.mil>
- One of the most important requests issued by law enforcement or emergency management officials is a "Shelter in Place" order. There are many reasons that a neighborhood or area will be asked to shelter-in-place. If you know how, sheltering in place in your home, at work or even in a public place can be quick and easy. For more useful information, click [here](#).
- Be Prepared for Storms, Extreme Cold and Flood Dangers. One of the most likely emergency situations in Fayette County will come from a storm that creates an extended rainfall event. Several inches of rain over a short period of time can flood roadways and turn small streams into dangerous rushing rivers. Remember to "Turn Around - Don't Drown!" Learn more here: <http://www.ready.gov/floods>
- Make A Plan. Every family needs an emergency plan. Know who to call to let others know you're OK. Pick places to meet if you get separated during an emergency. ([Learn more here](#))
- An emergency kit is an essential part of emergency preparedness. Build a kit for your home, your car and your office or workplace. It's easy and can be done over time so when you need it, you—and the kit—are ready. ([Learn more here](#))
- Pets need to be prepared for emergencies also. Build a kit for them also. Learn how here: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/pets>

Source: Lexington Division of Emergency Management

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

<b>LexCall</b> (City Hall)	311
<b>Police</b> (Non-emergency)	258-3600
<b>Fire</b> (Non-emergency)	231-5600
Columbia Gas	800-432-9345
Fayette County Clerk	253-3344
Fayette County Sheriff	252-1771
Garbage Collection	425-2255 or 311
Health Dept.	252-2371
Humane Society	225-9033
Ky. Utilities	255-0394
Ky. American Water	800-678-6301
Lexington Public Library	231-5500
Senior Citizen Center	278-6072
Time-Warner Cable	514-1400
Traffic Hotline	258-3830
Voter Registration	255-8683
United Way	211



Lexington's Division of Police is now hiring. The deadline for submitting an online application is February 20.

[Click here for online interest form, application, testing dates, eligibility requirements and information on becoming one of Lexington's Finest.](#)

Stantec, an international engineering firm with offices in Lexington, has announced it is expanding here, creating 30 new jobs. Stantec currently employs 160 people in Lexington. They plan to invest more than \$2.5 million on the expansion. Stantec plans to occupy part of the new CentrePointe building when it opens.

Source: Commerce Lexington



Image courtesy of the Webb Companies.

*Do you know someone who might also enjoy reading this monthly newsletter? Please forward a copy to them! If you are not currently a subscriber, please e-mail [rbolson@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rbolson@lexingtonky.gov) to be added to the e-mail list.*